

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 571

INFO USDOC WASHDC

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USDOC FOR BEWT/USSR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEW, UR

SUBJ: NEW MOSCOW AIRPORT PROMISES EASIER TIME FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS

ISTS

1. ALTHOUGH FOREIGN OBSERVERS HAVE LONG ASSUMED THAT SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO RELAX THEIR SECURITY CONTROLS ON FOREIGN TOURISTS IF THEY HOPED TO ENTER THE BIG LEAGUES OF WORLD TOURISM, IT HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY CLEAR THAT THE SOVIETS APPRECIATED THIS FACT. DURING RECENT DISCUSSIONS OF PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MOSCOW AIRPORT WITH OFFICIALS AT SOVIET FTO SOYUZVNESHSTROYIMPORT, COMMERCIAL OFFICE HAS LEARNED THAT THIS SORT OF RELAXATION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, ALTHOUGH IT WILL PERHAPS NOT MATERIALIZE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR NEW MOSCOW AIRPORT, AMOUNTS OF TIME FOR EACH PASSENGER TO COMPLETE STEPS OF CHECK-IN/ CHECK OUT PROCEDURE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) CUSTOMS CONTROL - 1.5 MINUTES; B) PASSPORT CONTROL - 1 MINUTE; C) MEDICAL CONTROL - 50 SECONDS; D) BAGGAGE CHECK-IN/ TICKETING - 1.5 MINUTES.

3. PROPOSALS REQUESTED FROM FOREIGN FIRMS FOR DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MOSCOW AIRPORT ARE TO BE BASED ON THESE AVERAGE TIMES FOR PASSENGER HANDLING. IF SOVIETS COME WITHIN HAILING DISTANCE

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OF THESE FIGURES, THIS WOULD REPRESENT VAST IMPROVEMENT OVER CUR-

RENT SITUATION AND SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE SECURITY CONTROLS OVER IN-COMING AND OUTGOING TOURISTS. NEW AIRPORT IS TO BE DESIGNED TO HANDLE 8-10 MILLION PASSENGERS PER YEAR, OR APPROXIMATELY 25,000 PER DAY. THIS TRAFFIC FLOW GIVES SOME IDEA OF GROWTH WHICH SOVIETS HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN TOURISM AREA.

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